

Santa Fe Irrigation District



January 21, 2009

Chair Richard Wright and Regional Board Members
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego – Region 9
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: Carlsbad Desalination Project - #R9-2008-0039

Dear Chairman Wright and Board members:

I'm writing to you today on behalf of Poseidon Resources' Carlsbad Desalination Project and asking for your approval of their Marine Life Mitigation Plan at the public hearing on February 11, 2009.

I am the General Manager for the Santa Fe Irrigation District (SFID), which provides water service to the City of Solana Beach and the communities of Rancho Santa Fe and Fairbanks Ranch. Our mission is to provide our customers with a reliable, high-quality water supply at a reasonable cost. Our total service area covers 10,200 acres and includes 20,900 customers.

At SFID, we pride ourselves on taking an innovative approach to managing operations and meeting our customer's needs. To better enhance our water reliability, we contracted with Poseidon Resources to purchase 2,000 acre-feet per year of water from its Carlsbad desalination plant. This represents about 14% of our total annual need of 13,500 acre-feet per year. Currently, about 30% of our potable supply comes from Lake Hodges and 70% is imported water purchased from the San Diego County Water Authority. We believe that locally-produced desalinated water will be a vital element to securing the region's future water stability.

The Carlsbad Desalination Project has undergone a decade of regulatory review and has long since proven its environmental credentials. We are confident that the MLMP currently under review fulfills all of the conditions of the discharge permit the Board issued in 2006.

We believe that this agreement provides our region with the most dependable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible water source to augment our imported supplies. On behalf of my Board of Directors and our thousands of customers, we urge the Board to approve the Marine Life Mitigation Plan.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Bardin
General Manager

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SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD

cc: David King, Vice Chairman
Eric Anderson, Board Member
Grant Destache, Board Member
George Loveland, Board Member
Wayne Rayfield, Board Member
Gary Thompson, Board Member
Kris Weber, Board Member
John Robertus, Executive Director
Catherine Hagan, Regional Board Attorney

